



2012 Peace, Conflict & Justice Conference: Executive Summary

The Urban Era: Comparing Challenges in the World's Cities

Although many complications arise in cities as a direct consequence of the unique features of an urban centre, the field of Peace and Conflict Studies often neglects to include an urban perspective in its analysis of conflict, peace, and justice. Because ubiquitous conflicts and problems manifest themselves differently in urban centres, their resolution requires a different approach.

This conference explores complications inherent in the management of a city and looks at solutions that have been developed for an urban setting. The role of municipal authorities in resolving the conflicts within cities is of special interest. Because municipalities in most countries have powers that are limited by those of higher levels of government, the solutions that they can unilaterally put forward are also limited. With this in mind, how can municipal authorities work within the confines of their country's political structure to address issues in their cities? Using this approach, the conference seeks to examine questions about the role of municipalities in their respective nations.

More generally, the conference will also look at the handling of conflicts in urban areas as a microcosm for issues of a more global scale. It will do so by analysing key urban issues, like health, environmentalism, crime, immigration, urban growth and violent divisions using a comparative perspective. Each panel will focus on a two cities and one issue of relevance to both places.

Naturally, so many diverse topics examined through a comparative lens make this conference interdisciplinary, allowing it to analyse issues in a fashion true to the interdisciplinary nature of Peace and Conflict Studies.

We are delighted to extend to you a warm invitation to attend our conference.



Conference Schedule

Day 1 – Friday 1st February, 2013

19h-22h **Keynote Event & Reception – Professor Saskia Sassen**

Day 2 – Saturday 2nd February, 2013

9h30-10h Light Breakfast

10h-12h **Learning to Live Together: *Immigration in Paris and Montréal***

Focusing on the arrondissements of Paris and the boroughs of Montreal, this panel will explore the tensions and effects of immigration in the modern urban setting. Of particular interest is how each city responds to the changing sociocultural, geographical, and political landscapes immigration can cause.

The Polis and the Police: Organized Crime in Kingston and Moscow

This panel will be a comparative study of Moscow, Russia and Kingston, Jamaica; looking at the issue of transnational criminal organizations through the lens of central urban “nodes” in the network. Furthermore, it will examine how organized crime in these two urban sectors reflects the greater social issues in these two nations as a whole. Although the problems experienced in Moscow and Kingston are inextricably tied to wider issues, they take on their own character within the “node,” and thus require solutions tailored to the specific cities. We will examine what city-based solutions have been implemented, the efficacy of these solutions, and what other options may be proposed for the future.

12h-13h LUNCH

13h-15h **Urban Environmentalism: *Cities and Green Initiatives in the Global South and North***

The Urban Sustainability panel will cover environmental problems facing cities today by comparing Lima and San Francisco. These two cities face distinct environmental challenges; Lima experiences air pollution due to industrial and vehicle emissions, food scarcity and water contamination, while San Francisco must try and avoid the destruction of the Bay area and the nearby marshes as well as the depletion of its fisheries. This panel will look at each city’s initiatives to address these issues, such as alternative transportation, urban farming and alternative energy. Further, the panel will compare the different priorities and approaches to green issues of city dwellers in the developed world (San Francisco) and the less developed world (Lima).

Urban Growth and Industry Development: *Shanghai and Mumbai*

Interconnectedness of industries plays a large role in the development of urban society. By looking at where industries choose to locate, relational underpinnings become salient attributes of the market economy. Both Shanghai and Mumbai have risen as major economic centres in the region. While Mumbai's industrial concentrations are in the realm of manufacturing (textiles, leather, electronics, etc.), Shanghai's clusters tend to focus on biomedical and creative industries. This panel seeks to examine structural attributes of industries based in the two cities as an explanation for their rapid economic expansion.

15h-15h30 LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

15h30-17h30 ***A City Divided: Religion and Sectarian Conflict in Jerusalem and Belfast***

The struggles of divided peoples in the context of peace, conflict and justice do not vanish in an urban environment. On the contrary, cities have the potential to exacerbate conflict within a population. Both Jerusalem and Belfast have experienced protracted conflict based on long-standing divisions within their populations, which is a microcosm of conflict on a larger scale. In Jerusalem, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is played out between East and West Jerusalem, while in Belfast the Protestant Unionists and the Catholic Republicans face tensions.

This panel will explore the relationships between physical environments and the attachments we form as well as the relationship between a city's geography and demography. How have the opposing sides formed these attachments, divided the cities and clashed? What steps have the respective municipal authorities taken to mitigate conflict or reconcile the two parties that are unique to the urban environment? And, ultimately, how have divided peoples become divided cities?

Outbreaks and Epidemics: Urban Efforts to Control Disease in Johannesburg & Port-au-Prince

There are many characteristics inherent in an urban environment (like a high population density, the presence of a sex industry, travel and a large commuter population) that make cities especially susceptible to disease outbreaks and becoming a 'disease hub'. Furthermore, cities in developing countries often suffer from high levels of inequality. Both Port-au-Prince and Johannesburg suffer from rising inequality gaps between rich and poor. Moreover, these cities are both reputable for the slums located within their boundaries. This leads us to ask, how do these social and economic inequalities affect the ability for individuals within these different social groups to access health care? Furthermore, is one section of the population more susceptible to infectious diseases than the other? This panel will look at the Haitian cholera outbreak in Port-au-Prince and South Africa's AIDS epidemic through the lens of its largest city, Johannesburg, to determine what tools these municipalities have to deal with such pressing issues.